Message Text

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CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, GATT

SUBJECT: GRAINS, AGRICULTURE AND THE MTN

REF: GENEVA 1661

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR TREATMENT OF GRAINS ISSUES IN AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING MARCH 24. OUR CONCERN IS THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAINS GROUP UNDER MTN AT THIS TIME WOULD INTERFERE WITH OUR EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT DISCUSSIONS ON GRAINS RESERVES IN IWC FRAMEWORK IN LONDON.

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2. FOR THIS REASON WE WILL CONTINUE TO OBJECT TO ESTABLISH-

MENT GRAINS GROUP GENEVA AT THIS TIME AND WILL SEEK PERSUADE EC ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

- --A. WE RECOGNIZE THAT GRAINS ISSUE MUST BE DEALT WITH BY MTN.
- --B. WE REGARD FOOD SECURITY, HOWEVER, AS MOT URGENT ISSUE CONNECTED WITH GRATIS BECAUSE OF ITS POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, BECAUSE OF LIKELIHOOD THAT CROP SITUATION NEXT SUMMER WILL PRESENT OPPORTUNITY TO START BUILDING RESERVES AND NEED TO BUILD RESERVES ON AN ORDERLY BASIS PURSUANT TO AN INTERNATIONALLY AGREED SYSTEM.
- --C. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER BEST PLACE TO NEGOTIATE ON RESERVES ISSUE IS IN LONDON UNDER IWC AUSPICES SINCE THIS ONLY FEASIBLE WAY AT THIS TIME OF BRINGING SOVIETS INTO DELIBERATIONS AND BECAUSE IT MEETS TEST OF URGENT ATTENTION WHICH WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IN MTN CONTEXT.
- --D. SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL GRAIN RESERVES SYSTEM SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE NEGOTIATION OF LARGER GRAINS ISSUE IN MTN; ON THE CONTRARY WE BELIEVE IT WOULD FACILITATE SUCH A LARGER NEGOTIATION.
- --E. WE DO NOT ASK EC TO FOREGO ITS POSITION THAT GRAIN RESERVE ISSUE MUST BE DEALT WITH AS A PART OF MTN, A POINT WE EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZE.
- --F. WE PROPOSE THAT AGRICULTURE GROUP AT ITS MEETING ON MARCH 24 TAKE NOTE OF PROSPECT OF NEGOTIATION ON GRAINS AT LONDON UNDER AUSPICES IWC WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO QUESTIONS OF RESERVES. IN CONSIDERATION OF THESE PROSPECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AND PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THE AGRICULTURE GROUP SHOULD DEFER ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAINS GROUP, RESERVING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING SUCH A GROUP AT A LATER TIME.
- --G. WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE COMMUNITY RESTATING AND RESERVING ITS POSITION REGARDING GRAINS IN THE MTN. ALL WE ASK IS TO PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR IWC TO PROLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRESS AS FAR AND AS RAPIDLY AS IT CAN ON THE RESERVES QUESTION AT THIS TIME.

3. WE INTEND TO DISCUSS THIS POSITION WITH THE COMMUNITY IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 18 IN ADVANCE IWC PREP GROUP MEETING LONDON MARCH 19. WILL ADVISE EC BRUSSELS SEPARATELY OF US PARTICIPANTS THESE TALKS. INGERSOLL

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